

They don't have the power to do these things. I know they don't want to go into reorganization and bankruptcy as Delta Airlines did. But it is not going to be a horrible thing. Delta went in and emerged about a year and a half later. They reorganized, reduced expenses, altered and amended contracts and obligations, and they recently bought Northwest. They went bankrupt in 2005, and they came out leaner and more competitive and are now a viable company. But these CEOs—if you give them money, they are going to have less leverage with the unions, less leverage with their 7,000 automobile dealers, when Toyota has 1,500 automobile dealers. They are going to have less leverage with the lease agreements and health care agreements they entered into years ago, in a different situation, to deal with people's health care requests and demands at that time. They are stuck with that until they can break loose from it.

A bankruptcy judge whose motive would be to help them become leaner and more effective and sends them out as a viable entity so that jobs are saved and debts are fundamentally repaid—that would be the goal of reorganization and bankruptcy. I don't think we ought to be putting a lot of money into this company until we see it in a position that would actually break the chains of \$2,000 per car that is slowing them down, actually pulling them down hopelessly.

I thank the Chair for the opportunity to share some of my thoughts. I believe when we violate the principles of intervening in the free market and picking winners and losers, we are taking a great risk. If we do so, it ought to be done with the greatest of care, the least exposure to the taxpayer, and with the greatest potential for creating a successful company in the end.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

#### THE LIFE OF DR. RANDY PAUSCH

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Randy Pausch, who died this past July 25 from pancreatic cancer. Dr. Pausch was a rare hero who rose above his illness and fought to the end for increased public awareness of this devastating illness. In doing so, Dr. Pausch captured the attention of the country, inspiring people with his extraordinary grace, courage, and love of life.

Dr. Pausch was a professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, in my home State of Pennsylvania. He was an accomplished researcher and dedicated teacher.

Many people know what Randy did because of his famous "Last Lecture," which he delivered at Carnegie Mellon in September of last year. The video of the lecture became an inspirational phenomenon on the Internet. Literally millions of Americans wrote and

blogged about the transformational impact Dr. Pausch's lecture had upon them and their lives. Recently, "The Last Lecture" was turned into a best-selling book.

The lessons from Dr. Pausch that have inspired so many people are simple, but ones we all too easily can forget. He reminds us about achieving childhood dreams and maintaining a sense of childhood wonder. He also encourages his listeners to work hard, tell the truth, be earnest, help others, apologize for mistakes, listen to advice, and never, ever give up. He helps us remember how important it is to simply enjoy life and that each day is a gift.

As his disease progressed, Dr. Pausch was also an impassioned advocate for pancreatic cancer research. He testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, saying:

We don't have advocates for this disease because they don't live long enough. We don't have a Michael J. Fox because people die too fast. Pancreatic cancer is absolutely ruthless. Part of my job is to put a face on the disease.

So said Dr. Pausch so poignantly about this disease, because indeed pancreatic cancer is ruthless. It is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States of America. Seventy-five percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within 1 year of diagnosis. The 5-year survival rate is barely 5 percent. The survival rate for pancreatic cancer today is the same as it was 30 years ago.

Randy was only 45 when he died of pancreatic cancer on July 25 of this year. He left behind his wife Jai and their three children, Dylan, Logan, and Chloe.

Dr. Randy Pausch lived life to the fullest in every sense of that word, in every sense of that phrase. He was a loving husband and father, a dedicated educator, and an impassioned advocate. While his life was cut short by pancreatic cancer, his legacy for living is one we should all cherish. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of Dr. Pausch with the resolution that I and others have introduced. This resolution calls upon communities across this country to recognize November as National Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, and urges greater public awareness and resources for prevention, early detection, and treatment of this disease.

Let us, with this resolution, recognize the extraordinary gift that Dr. Pausch's life was to humanity and strive to make progress with this deadly, ruthless disease.

I commend Senator CLINTON for her leadership on this issue and for introducing this resolution. I am joined as a cosponsor by my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator SPECTER. For their help, we are greatly appreciative.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine is recognized.

#### TRIBUTE TO RETIRING SENATORS

PETE DOMENICI

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, as the 110th Congress draws to a close, I rise to say thanks and farewell to one of our hardest working and most dedicated Members, Senator PETE DOMENICI of New Mexico.

PETE DOMENICI's story is truly the American dream come to life. The son of immigrants, PETE worked in the family grocery business, earned a college degree, taught school, obtained a law degree, and served in local government before his election to the Senate.

I cannot overlook one vitally important part of his biography, and that is his stint as a pitcher for a farm team of the old Brooklyn Dodgers. Who knows how much different history would be if his fast ball had had a little more "pop" to it?

For 36 years, however, baseball's loss has been the Senate's gain. The character developed by athletic competition—determination, hard work, a sense of fair play—is fully evident in PETE's six terms in office.

When the people of New Mexico chose PETE DOMENICI to be the longest serving Senator in their State's history, they chose wisely. His tireless work on a wide range of issues has helped to ensure a better future for all Americans, rural or urban, large State or small. He is a respected leader on some of the most important challenges of our time, such as strengthening energy security, curbing nuclear proliferation, and promoting sound Federal budget policy.

PETE's understanding of the budget process is matched only by his appreciation of the critical role fiscal responsibility plays. His service on the Budget Committee established his universal reputation as one of the Senate's hardest working, most intelligent, and best-informed Members. His focus on results rather than the limelight led one colleague to describe him as having "a terminal case of responsibility."

Senator DOMENICI is also a true champion for biomedical research, and especially for Americans suffering from mental illness. He has worked unceasingly over the years to increase the understanding and to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness. He has led the effort in the Senate—first in partnership with Senator Paul Wellstone, and later with our colleague Senator TED KENNEDY, to pass legislation that requires insurers to cover mental illness in the same way they cover physical illnesses.

Thankfully, those efforts have finally borne fruit with the inclusion of his legislation in the economic stimulus bill, the stabilization bill passed in the Senate. It is a victory not just for Senator DOMENICI's longstanding efforts but also for the estimated 50 million Americans who suffer from some kind of mental illness. It is a testament to his dedication and his compassion.

Senator DOMENICI's tenure has been marked by vision, common sense, and a

commitment to results. When he became chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in 2003, Senator DOMENICI set to work to craft the first major comprehensive energy bill in more than a decade. Many thought it would be impossible to put together the bipartisan support to pass the Energy Policy Act of 2005, but Senator DOMENICI did it. That landmark law laid the foundation for American energy independence, the responsible use of existing resources, and the development of new technology. We can build on that foundation by following the model he set of informed debate and thoughtful consensus.

While most of his many accomplishments have national significance, there is one that may not be well known outside of his home State. More than a decade ago, PETE DOMENICI introduced a program that has helped the schoolchildren of New Mexico learn trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. This program is called "Character Counts." It fully epitomizes what PETE DOMENICI is all about. It fully describes his legacy because, with PETE DOMENICI, character has always counted.

Senator DOMENICI leaves this Chamber with an overflowing and bipartisan store of good will and gratitude. We are all losing an outstanding colleague. On a personal note, I am also losing an outstanding Washington DC neighbor, since PETE and his wonderful wife, Nancy, live right down the street from me. I am pleased to be among the many Senators offering thanks for his years of service and best wishes to him and to Nancy.

GORDON SMITH

Mr. President, for nearly 70 years, the film "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" has inspired Americans and people around the world with its uplifting story of how one man of conviction and character can make a difference. Today, I am honored to offer a few words to the Mr. SMITH of our time: Senator GORDON SMITH of Oregon.

Senator SMITH came to Washington to make a difference—and he has. He and I were sworn into the United States Senate on the same day, January 7, 1997. Although his State and mine are a continent apart, we quickly found that we had a lot in common.

It has been a joy to work with GORDON SMITH on so many important issues. Of course, where I come from, the name "Senator Smith" conjures up not just the beloved movie but also a towering, real-life figure, and my inspiration in public service. Although Margaret Chase Smith of Maine and GORDON SMITH are separated by time, they are united in a spirit of independence and integrity. Both served with strong convictions but with respect for the principles of others. Both spoke up when they saw wrongdoing. Both had extraordinary courage that allowed them to speak out when they thought their own party was in error. Both saw the aisle not as a barrier to progress

but as a bridge to reaching consensus on behalf of the American people.

This focus on moving forward is especially apparent in GORDON SMITH's effective work on issues of great importance in Maine, in Oregon, and everywhere in between—health care, tax relief, small business, equal rights, and foreign policy. These challenges are ones that require careful consensus-building, a responsible approach that has defined GORDON SMITH's service here.

GORDON SMITH is simply a wonderful person and an extraordinary leader. We all remember the terrible tragedy he suffered with the loss of his son during his service here, a terrible tragedy that gave him and his family such sorrow. But it is typical of GORDON SMITH that out of that tragedy, he chose to do something to help prevent other families from enduring the tragedy of the loss of a child. That is so typical of GORDON SMITH—always thinking of others, always trying to do what is right, always committed to public service.

"Smith" is one of the more common names in the English language, but in this Chamber the name has special meaning, one of uncommon principles and extraordinary accomplishments. It reminds us of a cherished film, of the great lady from the State of Maine, Senator Margaret Chase Smith, and now of Senator GORDON SMITH. I thank him for his service and his friendship, and I wish him all the best in the future.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Maine is recognized.

ELIZABETH DOLE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, when she came to the Senate 6 years ago, ELIZABETH DOLE brought with her a resume that for most would describe a full lifetime of public service and accomplishment. The intellect, principles, and dedication ELIZABETH applied to her earlier endeavors have been readily apparent in the Senate. America has been enriched by all of Senator ELIZABETH DOLE's public service.

Her record of public service is truly inspiring. From the Office of Consumer Affairs and the Federal Trade Commission to the Secretary of Transportation and Labor, she has served five Presidents. Her tenure in each of these positions has been marked by the dedication, effectiveness, and accomplishments that we have seen firsthand in the Senate.

Nothing more fully describes ELIZABETH's character than the fact that she left Government service only to be-

come the president of the American Red Cross, joining founder Clara Barton as the only women to hold that position. In the spirit of that great organization, ELIZABETH worked as a volunteer her first year, accepting no salary. Under her leadership, the American Red Cross was a model for charitable organizations, with 91 cents out of every dollar contributed going directly to help those in need.

ELIZABETH led the American Red Cross by example. Following the gulf war, she visited Kuwait to assess personally the services provided to our military personnel. She traveled to famine-stricken Somalia and Mozambique and to war-ravaged Croatia. She led a humanitarian relief operation to Rwanda refugee camps. That same commitment, courage, and compassion have been the hallmarks of her work in the Senate.

Those of us who are women also appreciate the many times ELIZABETH DOLE has blazed the path forward for other women. We know she was one of the very first women to attend Harvard Law School. Think how difficult that must have been for a woman raised in the South. Yet she persevered and she excelled and she broke barrier after barrier for other women.

In her campaign for President in 2000, ELIZABETH DOLE had a profound effect. She attracted legions of new voters into the political process. She encouraged women throughout the country and of all political persuasions to step forward and get involved in the campaign and to run for public office themselves. Many of the cracks in the glass ceiling are the work of her hands.

Here in the Senate, I have been privileged to work alongside Senator DOLE as members on the Senate Armed Services Committee. She has been one of our strongest and most eloquent voices for the men and women in uniform, and her commitment to them is inspiring. Her dedication to strengthening our national security and modernizing our military is unsurpassed.

It is certainly no accident that she is married to a man—former Senator Bob Dole—who exemplifies the quiet courage and devotion to duty that are the hallmark of America's armed services and by which both Senator Dole's are known.

I know that all in the Senate and throughout our Nation will agree that just a few of the words that best describe ELIZABETH DOLE are "intelligence," "principles," and "commitment." To those, I am proud to add the word "friend." I will miss serving with ELIZABETH DOLE. I wish her all the best in the years to come.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### THE ECONOMY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, next week Americans across our country are going to be celebrating Thanksgiving. It is a time that we reflect and give thanks for our families and friends and all that we have. But far too many of our families across my State and across this country have far less than they did just a year ago. They lost their homes, their cars, their health care, their 401(k)s, and their jobs. Just this month, we learned that this country has lost a total of 1.2 million jobs this year. Over half of that decrease came in the last 3 months alone.

Across this country, people are hurting, and some of the hardest hit have been our veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thousands of our veterans are still recovering from physical or psychological injuries that make it very hard for them to pay their bills or to find a job, and too many find themselves sliding quickly into bankruptcy or foreclosure. Yesterday, in fact, the New York Times reported that advocacy groups have seen a huge increase in the number of veterans asking for financial help over the last year.

Americans made it very clear on election day that they want a new direction in this country. They want action that will help pull us out of this economic crisis. President-elect Obama has already announced that his first priority will be an economic recovery plan that invests in our country's infrastructure. As chair of the Appropriations Transportation and Housing Subcommittee, I stand ready to help with that. But, as the latest jobless reports show, we can't afford to wait even until January, when we have a new President, to start providing the help Americans need today. That is why I have come to the floor. We need to take action that will create jobs, diversify and modernize our economy, and help our families cope with this economic downturn.

This week, Senator BYRD and our majority leader, Senator REID, proposed an economic stimulus bill that would do just that. Their bill is targeted at the biggest needs in our country today. It will create more than 635,000 jobs by investing in infrastructure and green energy development, and it would help our most vulnerable citizens put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads.

Congress can make a real difference for millions of families across our country. If there was a mandate given on November 4, it was for Government to work for the people once again. America's working families want a government that will turn our economy around and end this war, and they want true progress on health care and on education. That is our mandate. We have an awful lot of work to do, and we need a bipartisan effort to do it. But we

cannot just sit around waiting until we have a new administration and a new Congress. Americans are hurting today.

We have the ability in this Congress to come together across party lines and pass a bill that will put Americans back to work and stabilize our communities across this country. I wish to take a couple of minutes this morning to outline how that package will help get our country moving again and help those most in need.

First of all, it is critically important that we help families who have already lost their jobs and are drawing unemployment today. Especially with employers cutting jobs each month, there are hundreds of thousands of Americans who need help for basic needs while they look for work. This package reaches out to those families by extending unemployment benefits by 7 weeks across the country and 13 weeks in States where the jobless rate is the highest. It also brings relief to communities, since every dollar of unemployment benefits generates \$1.64 in additional economic activity. This helps everyone.

This bill also provides help for the millions of families who are struggling today to find safe and secure housing. Across the country, public housing is badly in need of repair and improvement. This bill will allow communities to rehabilitate vacant public housing units, improve energy efficiency, and jump-start construction of new projects that will serve those tenants. It will also help address a growing problem in our community: renters who lost their homes because their landlords were foreclosed on. This bill will help protect these innocent victims of the foreclosure crisis and help them find immediate shelter and long-term housing.

One reason we need this bill badly is because it offers help to those who need it most, those who have lost their jobs and homes who are struggling to find housing today. But this bill will also help our communities and jump-start our economy by creating more than 635,000 jobs, investing in new technology and repairing our infrastructure. For example, this package would make investments in highway and bridge construction in every single State—all 50 States—by providing \$10 billion to help fund projects that are ready to go today. We know that for every \$1 billion we spend on highways, we create more than 34,500 good jobs. So this package will create more than 345,000 jobs.

Additionally, it is important to note there are no earmarks in this bill, no special projects as part of the highway funding in this bill. All highway dollars will be spent according to the formula that has been established for the Surface Transportation Program in our SAFETEA-LU highway bonds. States would have to put this money to work in 180 days.

We also know that roads are not the only area where communities need

transportation dollars. Cities across our country are struggling to repair and expand their bus and rail systems as demand for mass transit and public transportation is skyrocketing. So this bill will improve and expand mass-transit systems so that millions of commuters can get to work smoothly and on time. It will help repair and improve our Nation's airports. It will make needed investments in our Nation's ferry transportation system and modernize our Nation's shipyards to make them competitive and efficient.

While creating these jobs will help get our economy going again, we also need to work to make sure our workers are prepared to compete for the jobs of the future. So this package does that by helping 160,000 dislocated workers and youth get education, training, counseling, and job assistance. This is particularly important for young people who are disengaged from school and for disadvantaged teenagers who are often hurt the most when our unemployment rates are high. It is critical that we enable these young people to get work experience now because if they lose out, they are less likely to move successfully into a career later.

We know teens without jobs are more likely to turn to crime or join gangs which cost our communities millions in law enforcement and lost productivity. Not only will the programs this bill supports pay off as the economy picks up over time, they will help stimulate the economy in the short term too, because, you know, teens spend immediately all the money they make. So that will help everyone.

This package also recognizes that we need to start investing in new and healthy industries that will help create new, good-paying jobs and help strengthen our economy for the long term. I think one of the most promising fields is green technology. That is why this package would invest almost \$7 billion in research and development that would help us create new energy sources and improved energy efficiency.

Not only is the research and development absolutely vital in order to create the technology and the new jobs that come with it, but research and development and clean technologies are critical if we are going to become energy independent.

So these are parts of the package which I believe will be a shot in the arm, that will help our economy for many years to come.

Before I finish today, I do want to address the provisions in this bill that would help the country's struggling auto industry. I want the auto industry to remain viable and continue to support the millions of jobs across this country which depend on its success. But I cannot support any more funds without concrete assurance the automakers have a strategy to restructure and become viable, competitive companies. The auto industries cannot continue to follow a failed business model and then come here and ask for help.